



The

# MARKETPLACE

For Recycling Commodities

Kentucky Recycling Assistance Section

October 2014

## Report Finds PET Bottle Recycling Rate Holds Steady in 2013

According to *Resource Recycling*, a report released last week by a pair of plastics industry groups shows the U.S. PET bottle recycling rate was 31.2 percent last year, a slight rise from 2012's 30.8 percent mark.

In 2013, 1.798 billion pounds of PET bottle material was collected for recycling, an 80 million pound increase from the previous year. Representatives from the groups behind the study—the National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR) and the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR)—note those collection increases were a product of upticks in material from states with bottle deposit legislation, as well as continued growth in single-stream and commercial recycling programs, which brought more PET into materials recovery facilities (MRFs) nationwide.

The total volume of bottles available for recycling in the U.S. also rose from 2012 to 2013, increasing by 178 million pounds to 5.764 billion pounds.

The study also notes that due to reduced demand for mixed plastic bales brought about by China's Green Fence policy (which hit its peak in 2013), "MRFs may have been incentivized to move materials from mixed resin bales to PET bales."

The trend toward lighter and smaller bottles among beverage makers is again noted as a factor holding back recycling rate growth in the PET arena. The report also indicates some states with developed curbside recycling programs reported declines in total weight collected.

China's Green Fence also seems to have made an impact on the tonnages of PET bottle material exported from the U.S. Roughly 469 million pounds of collected material, or 26 percent, was exported in 2013. That's the lowest volume since

2004 and the lowest by percentage of total collection since 2000.

U.S. reclaimers, however, increased consumption of U.S. bottles by 17 percent, compared with 2012.

Over the past decade, U.S. PET bottle recycling rates have climbed each year. The 0.4 percentage point climb between 2012 and 2013 is the second-smallest increase the industry has seen in that time frame. The only time it was smaller was between 2010 and 2011, when the rate went from 29.1 percent to 29.3 percent, according to figures supplied in the most recent report.

Between 2011 and 2012 the rate increased from 29.3 percent to 30.8 percent.

To read the report, click on [http://www.napcor.com/pdf/NAPCOR\\_2013RateReport-FINAL.pdf](http://www.napcor.com/pdf/NAPCOR_2013RateReport-FINAL.pdf).

## Recycling Market Prognosis

*Resource Recycling* reports that recycling market players suggest these trends for October and November:

	<u>Demand</u>	<u>Price</u>
Ferrous	A bit soft	Flat
Aluminum	Metal will move	Up and down
Paper	Waiting for foreign buyers	Discouraging
Plastic	Robust	Strong for PE



COMMODITY	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Oct-13
<b><u>PAPER-\$/TON</u></b>	<b>RISI Official Board Markets (Midwest/Chicago area) FOB</b>							
-	<b>Apr-14</b>	<b>May-14</b>	<b>Jun-14</b>	<b>Jul-14</b>	<b>Aug-14</b>	<b>Sep-14</b>	<b>Oct-14</b>	<b>Oct-13</b>
#2 mixed paper	\$35-40	\$35-40	\$35-40	\$35-40	\$35-40	\$35-40	\$35-40	\$35-40
#37 sorted office paper (SOP)	\$125-135	\$125-135	\$125-135	\$130-140	\$130-140	\$130-140	\$130-140	\$120-125
#8 ONP	\$50-55	\$50-55	\$50-55	\$50-55	\$50-55	\$50-55	\$50-55	\$50-55
#40 sorted white ledger (SWL)	\$200-210	\$200-210	\$200-210	\$200-210	\$210-220	\$210-220	\$210-220	\$200-210
#11 OCC	\$85-90	\$80-85	\$75-80	\$75-80	\$75-80	\$70-75	\$70-75	\$90-100
<b><u>PLASTICS-¢/LB.</u></b>	<b>Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - FOB</b>							
-	<b>Apr-14</b>	<b>May-14</b>	<b>Jun-14</b>	<b>Jul-14</b>	<b>Aug-14</b>	<b>Sep-14</b>	<b>Oct-14</b>	<b>Oct-13</b>
#1 PET - mixed (clear & green)	\$0.21	\$0.21	\$0.19	\$0.18	\$0.18	\$0.18	\$0.17	\$0.17
#2 HDPE (natural-milk jugs)	\$0.42	\$0.46	\$0.48	\$0.51	\$0.54	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.38
#2 HDPE (colored-detergent btl.)	\$0.32	\$0.25	\$0.28	\$0.30	\$0.28	\$0.30	\$0.31	\$0.21
<b><u>GLASS-\$/TON</u></b>	<b>Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - Delivered</b>							
-	<b>Apr-14</b>	<b>May-14</b>	<b>Jun-14</b>	<b>Jul-14</b>	<b>Aug-14</b>	<b>Sep-14</b>	<b>Oct-14</b>	<b>Oct-13</b>
clear (flint)	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00
brown (amber)	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00
green	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
<b><u>METALS</u></b>	<b>Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - Delivered</b>							
-	<b>Apr-14</b>	<b>May-14</b>	<b>Jun-14</b>	<b>Jul-14</b>	<b>Aug-14</b>	<b>Sep-14</b>	<b>Oct-14</b>	<b>Oct-13</b>
aluminum beverage cans (UBC) cents/lb.	\$0.75	\$0.84	\$0.79	\$0.78	\$0.79	\$0.79	\$0.78	\$0.70
	<b>Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - Delivered</b>							
	<b>Apr-14</b>	<b>May-14</b>	<b>Jun-14</b>	<b>Jul-14</b>	<b>Aug-14</b>	<b>Sep-14</b>	<b>Oct-14</b>	<b>Oct-13</b>
steel cans \$/TON	\$110-120	\$110-120	\$110-120	\$110-120	\$110-120	\$110-120	\$110-120	\$110-120



Energy and  
Environment Cabinet

### Kentucky Recycling Assistance Section

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